

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33-34 and 35-54 are pending in this RCE application. For purpose of expedition, base claims 1, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 29 and 33 have been amended to further define the composition of a “reflective polarizer”, as shown in FIG. 12, as comprising a cholesteric layer 33B and a quarter wave plate 33A, and a light control element as comprising an isotropic medium having no birefringence, as described on page 31, lines 9-26 of Applicants' specification, in order to clearly distinguish over cited prior art. Dependent claims 9 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to avoid undue duplicity. Claims 35-54 have been newly added to alternatively define the composition of a “reflective polarizer”, as shown in FIG. 10, as comprising an uniaxial anisotropic transparent medium 31A and an isotropic transparent medium 31B, and a “retardation film operating as a quarter wave plate” as “provided between the light control element and the illuminating device” as described on page 24, lines 9-26 of Applicants' specification, in order to distinguish over cited prior art. For reasons as discussed herein below, base claims 1, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 29 and 33, as amended, and claims 35-54, as newly added, are believed to be patentable over cited prior art and, should be placed in condition for allowance.

Previously, base claims 1, 13 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Examiner alleges as “Applicant admitted prior art” in view of Weber et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,025,897 for reasons stated on pages 2-4 of the Office Action (Paper No. 20040521). Dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 10-12, 14, 17-18 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Examiner alleges as “Applicant admitted prior art”

and Weber et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,025,897, as applied to claims 1, 13 and 20, and further in view of Gunjima et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,587,816 for reasons stated on pages 4-8 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 20040521). Similarly, dependent claims 9 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Examiner alleges as "Applicant admitted prior art" and Weber et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,025,897, as applied to claims 1, 13 and 20, and further in view of Wortman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,101,032 for reasons stated on pages 8-9 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 20040521). Separately, base claims 11 and 19 [which had previously been allowed] have now been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over what the Examiner alleges as "Applicant admitted prior art" in view of Gunjima et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,587,816, for reasons stated on pages 9-11 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 20040521). Lastly, claims 25, 29 and 33 have also been rejected under over what the Examiner alleges as "Applicant admitted prior art" in view of Weber, U.S. Patent No. 6,025,897 and, Nakamura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,986,723 for reasons stated on pages 11-13 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 20040521). While Applicants' traversals to these rejections are complete, as presented in the RESPONSE AFTER FINAL filed on September 1, 2004, and as incorporated by reference herein, base claims 1, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 29 and 33 have been amended, for purposes of expedition, to further define the composition of a "reflective polarizer", as shown in FIG. 12, as comprising a cholesteric layer 33B and a quarter wave plate 33A, and a light control element as comprising an isotropic medium having no birefringence, as described on page 31, lines 9-26 of Applicants' specification, in order to clearly distinguish over cited prior art, including Weber '897, and to place all claims in condition for allowance. As a

result of these provisions and means to achieve an effective conversion of polarized light by one-pass, the light utilization efficiency is improved by converting the polarized light efficiently in order to suppress the absorption loss by multi-times reflection, that is, no need to reflect multi times. The composition of the "reflective polarizer", as shown in FIG. 12, and the light control element is described on page 31, lines 9-26 of Applicants' specification.

In contrast to Applicants' base claims 1, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 29 and 33, Weber '897 only discloses a method for improving the light utilization efficiency by making useless light from the reflective polarizer non-polarized light, and reflecting multi-times the non-polarized light in the illuminating device. In addition to those features as lacking from Weber '897 for reasons discussed in the RESPONSE AFTER FINAL filed on September 1, 2004, Weber '897 does **not** disclose or suggest the composition of the "reflective polarizer", as shown in FIG. 12, as comprising a cholesteric layer 33B and a quarter wave plate 33A, and the light control element as comprising an isotropic medium having no birefringence, as described on page 31, lines 9-26 of Applicants' specification, and now claimed in Applicants' base claims 1, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 29 and 33. Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments of Applicants' base claims 1, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 29 and 33, and the noted deficiencies of the Examiner's proposed combination coupled with explanations provided previously, Applicants respectfully request that Applicants' base claims 1, 11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 29 and 33 are deemed distinguishable over Weber '897 and, should be placed in condition for allowance.

Claims 35-54 have been newly added to alternatively define the composition of a "reflective polarizer", as shown in FIG. 10, as comprising an uniaxial

anisotropic transparent medium 31A and an isotropic transparent medium 31B,
and a "retardation film operating as a quarter wave plate" as "provided between the
light control element and the illuminating device" as described on page 24, lines 9-26
of Applicants' specification, in order to distinguish over cited prior art, including
Weber '897. These claims are believed to be allowable at least for the same
reasons discussed above.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are
deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be
passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is
requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at
(703) 312-6600.

INTERVIEW:

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicants
respectfully request that an Examiner interview be scheduled and conducted. In
accordance with such interview request, Applicants respectfully request that the
Examiner, after review of the present Amendment, contact the undersigned local
Washington, D.C. area attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number
(703) 312-6600 for scheduling an Examiner interview, or alternatively, refrain from
issuing a further action in the above-identified application as the undersigned
attorneys will be telephoning the Examiner shortly after the filing date of this
Amendment in order to schedule an Examiner interview. Applicants thank the
Examiner in advance for such considerations. In the event that this Amendment, in

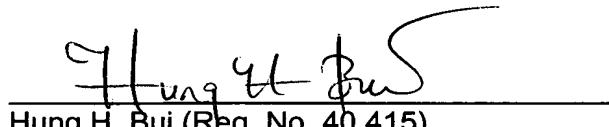
and of itself, is sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance, no Examiner interview may be necessary.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and fees for adding claims 35-54, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 503.36984X00), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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